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The value of these essays lies in the high moral and intellectual purpose running through them. Any pleasures, real or imaginary, flowing from the mere senses, are entirely ignored. The same treatment, however, is practically accorded to religion. The vein in which the author finds the riches of consolation is a purely philosophic one. He quotes La Bruyère: "Most men spend much of their lives in making the rest (of their lives) miserable," and in opposition to this he believes in the duty of being happy—if we can! Probably nobody really disputes this, but practically we too often hug our miseries. Again, an honest performance of duty is unquestionably a source of happiness; but why then are men and women constantly running away from duty? This question is not, we think, even suggested. Sir John contents himself with quoting from his favorite philosophers to show the exalted peace which is the reward of virtue, and with pleasantly putting forth some reflections, not always new, about the folly of avarice, ambition, and other infirmities of human nature, common to both ancient and modern times. Among other suggestions on this point is this: "If we are ever in doubt what to do, it is a good rule to ask ourselves what we shall wish on the morrow that we had done." Perhaps the avaricious and ambitious, as well as the contented and virtuous, may find this rule a profitable one, though not always a plain one. In the chapters on the choice of books we find the famous list of one hundred books, about which so much has been written in the public press. The author, of course, extols friendship, but warns us that friendship gives no privilege to people to make themselves disagreeable to each other. The best chapters of the treatise are to our thinking those on science and education.

V.

THE ELECTRIC MOTOR AND ITS APPLIANCES.*

WHILE the broad features of the dynamo-electric machine and the electric motor were probably outlined permanently when Gramme and Pacinotti made their first machines, yet the work of invention still goes on, and no one can say that the aggregate of improvement within a given period is inconsiderable. In fact, each year's contributions to the perfecting and adapting of these machines since they were first invented have thus far been very important, and never more so than during the last two or three years. The improvements, however, really affect the applications of the machines mentioned more than the machines themselves. For these reasons Messrs. Martin and Wetzler have done wisely to give prominence in their recent work on the electro-motor to a discussion of the various uses to which such motors have recently been applied. The theory of the electrical transmission of power has been ably set forth by others, and all the early forms of motor have been adequately described. These points are not overlooked by the authors of the present work, but they are discussed only so far as is necessary to give the treatment cohesion and continuity. In a chapter entitled "Elementary Considerations," is found a clear statement of the relations between motors and dynamo-electric machines, and in Chapter IV. the theoretical aspects of the subject are still further treated. The rest of the book deals with the electric motor historically and practically, and is mainly devoted, as has been intimated already, to its more recently applications. One of the chief excellences of the authors' method is a careful observance of proportion. The writers have no hobby. The

* "The Electric Motor and its Applications." By Thomas Commerford Martin and Joseph Wetzler, Associate Editors *The Electrical World*, Members American Institute of Electrical Engineers. With two hundred illustrations. New York: W. J. Johnston, 168-177 Potter Building. 1887. Second edition.

electric railway, of course, receives the first place, as is its due ; but the domestic and industrial applications of the motor get their proper share of attention. As regards different systems or the inventions of different individuals, the authors have happily made it their duty to record and not to draw comparisons. Perhaps the most valuable feature of the book is that it gives full structural details both in the text and in a large number of excellent illustrations. On this account it cannot fail to take its place in that important class of books which enable one to commit a whole library of pamphlets and periodicals to the flames without substantial loss.

Messrs. Martin and Wetzler have done their work with manifest enthusiasm. It is clear that they have an abiding faith in the future of the electric motor. As associate editors of an electrical journal, they have enjoyed unusual facilities for collecting their facts. It may fairly be said that they have used their enthusiasm and their opportunities to good purpose. They have performed a work which no one had done before them and which probably could not have been done so well by anybody else.

VI.

HUGUENOT HISTORY.

THE history of France during the half century preceding the Edict of Nantes is a history of commotion and internal conflict in which the noblest heroism and the worst passions of human nature were in full exercise. Professor Baird, in his two latest volumes of Huguenot history,* undertakes to tell the story, and he does so with a minuteness of detail that does him infinite credit as a diligent and painstaking investigator. He writes from a Protestant point of view, and is at no pains to conceal his sympathies, but his fidelity as a historian is always conspicuous, and he is careful and conscientious in his statements.

In the two volumes preceding these, entitled "The Rise of the Huguenots," the author deals with what he terms the formative age of the Huguenots of France, and brings the narrative down to the death of Charles IX. in 1574. The present volumes take the reader through the reigns of Henry III. and Henry IV., a period of thirty-seven years. As the St. Bartholomew massacre constituted the most thrilling occurrence of the former period, so the Edict of Nantes is the culminating point of the latter. It is understood, we believe, that there is soon to be forthcoming a continuation of Huguenot history, down to and beyond the Revocation, thus completing the survey of this eventful period of French history. The conception and execution of the task are alike admirable, and the connected books will take their place among the most honorable historical productions of our country.

The nature of the Huguenot claims and the causes of their discontent and uprising have been variously stated, but from these researches it would seem clear that the idea of overturning the throne or of superseding Catholicism by Calvinism was never seriously put forward in any of their councils. Their contention was for freedom, and their warlike attitude a protest against repression. This view is borne out by the nature of the concessions and compromises exacted from time to time from the dominant party. What the internal discipline of the Huguenot church was may be gathered from the records of the Reformed Synod of Ste. Foy la Grande in 1578. It is like reading the minutes of a Presbyterian Synod or Assembly in the present day. They enunciated the principle of religious and civil equality. They emphasized the importance of religious education, and enjoined ministers to teach the catechism, and to inculcate family worship. They protested

* "The Huguenots and Henry of Navarre." By Professor Henry M. Baird. Charles Scribner's Sons.